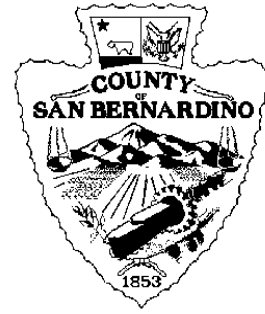


NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 29, 2013

For more information, contact Jim Felten
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FOOD DONATIONS TO SHELTERS

The San Bernardino County Department of Public Health appreciates the outpouring of goodwill throughout San Bernardino County necessitated by the devastating fires. To help provide safe food to those impacted by this tragedy, we are asking that the following foods not be supplied to shelters:

1. Open food items – any food item that has been opened, where the inner package is ripped, or any item that has had the seal broken.
2. Homemade items – any prepared food made at your homes, leftovers or home canned items.
3. Items not in their original containers – any items which have been repackaged.
4. Items without labels – food containers must have labels indicating item name, ingredients, and place of manufacture.
5. Damaged items – any canned foods that are heavily rusted, dented or leaking.

The following foods are recommended for those desiring to make donations:

1. Packaged or canned foods not requiring refrigeration
2. Frozen foods in original packaging with no signs of thawing. Site receiving such food must have adequate freezer space for storage.
3. Perishable foods that are packaged in original containers, held at safe temperatures and transported safely. Use of a thermometer will be of assistance in determining safe temperatures, which are:
 - a. Hot foods at 140°F or hotter
 - b. Cold foods at 41°F or colderSites receiving perishable foods must be equipped with means to hold at proper cold holding temperatures.
4. Foods from commercial facilities, such as markets or grocery stores in original packaging.
5. Foods prepared in commercial food facilities
6. Arrangements can be made with restaurants to supply foods directly to shelter sites.

Contact your local chapter of the American Red Cross for specific food items that are needed in your area: Inland Empire Chapter (909) 888-1481; Victorville (760) 245-6511 or the West Valley at (909) 986-6511.